

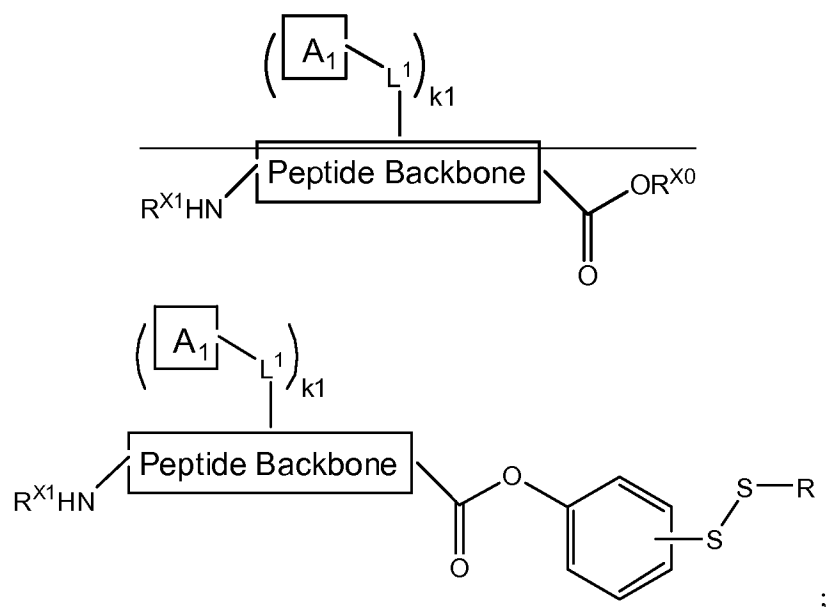
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

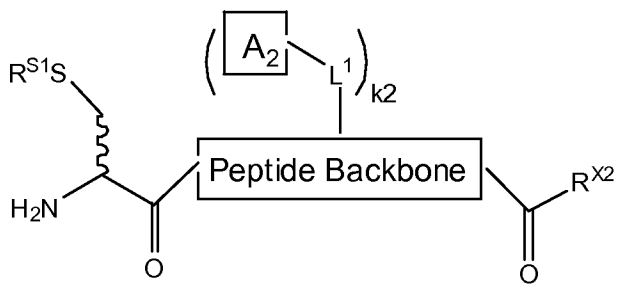
1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for preparing a peptide comprising a peptidic backbone made up of four or more amino acids;

wherein the method comprises a step of:

reacting a peptide acyl donor comprising a peptidic backbone made up of two or more amino acids wherein said peptide acyl donor has the structure:



with a peptide amine acceptor having the structure:



under reducing reaction conditions employing an excess of a reducing agent;

wherein k1 and k2 are independently integers between 1 and about 20;